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5-24-00

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In re U.S. Patent Application of** )  
NAKAE *et al.* )  
**Filed: Herewith on March 17, 2000** ) **Attention: OIPE**  
**Application Number: To be Assigned** )  
**For: Primer Design System** )

**Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

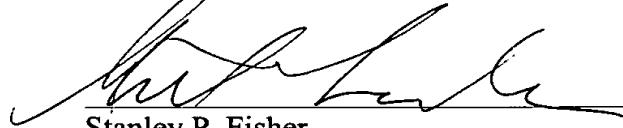
*a*

Please cancel claims 13-18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

**REMARKS**

Applicants have canceled claims 13-18 from the present application as being directed to an invention which is patentably distinct from the invention claimed in claims 1-12. Claims 13-18 are being pursued in a second application being filed concurrently herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



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